

## Weekly Field Memo – May 28, 2014

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### NEWS & UPDATES:

#### **New Feature on the Agency's Website: *Let's Talk Education***

##### **Audience: All**

We recently launched a new feature, [Let's Talk Education](#). This month we are spotlighting school safety. We asked educators, administrators, students, nurses, law enforcement, and first responders to talk about how to create a culture of trust and safety. [Click here](#) to read what the field has to say. If you are interested in sharing your voice on our [blog](#), please contact Angela Ross via [email](#).

**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

#### **Balanced Accountability Model: Looking Ahead – Preparing for an Evolution of Accountability in VT**

##### **Audience: Superintendents**

The VSA and AOE are partnering to facilitate a series of statewide conversations for superintendents about the Balanced Accountability Model currently in the early stages of development. To register, please call the VT Superintendent's Association at: 802-229-5834. [Click here](#) to read the memo.

**Contacts:** Chris Case, AOE, 802-479-1179 or [chris.case@state.vt.us](mailto:chris.case@state.vt.us); Jeff Francis, VSA, 802-229-5834 or [jfrancis@vtvsa.org](mailto:jfrancis@vtvsa.org)

#### **Spotlight on Agency Contact Info: School Finance**

##### **Audience: All**

The School Finance team can be reached as follows:

- Bill Talbott, CFO & Deputy Secretary, 802-479-7459 or [bill.talbott@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.talbott@state.vt.us)
- Brad James, Education Finance Manager, 802-479-1043 or [brad.james@state.vt.us](mailto:brad.james@state.vt.us)
- Aaron Brodeur, Education Finance Manager, 802-479-1022 or [aaron.brodeur@state.vt.us](mailto:aaron.brodeur@state.vt.us)
- Sean Cousino, Financial & Systems Analyst, 802-479-1026 or [sean.cousino@state.vt.us](mailto:sean.cousino@state.vt.us)
- Erin Finneran, School Finance Analyst, 802-479-1032 or [erin.finneran@state.vt.us](mailto:erin.finneran@state.vt.us)
- Cathy Hilgendorf, Asst. Director - School Finance, 802-479-7451 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)
- Cassandra Ryan, School Finance Analyst, 802-479-8545 or [cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us](mailto:cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us)
- <http://education.vermont.gov/school-finance> (web)
- 219 North Main Street | Suite 402 | Barre, VT 05641 (physical and mailing address)

The Agency's website lists our contact information: <http://education.vermont.gov/contact>

#### **AOE Communication**

##### **Audience: All**

Our press releases, field memos, calendar of events, and more are online: <http://bit.ly/11ajrtH>. View our strategic plan here: <http://bit.ly/1cZbMBP>. Connect with the AOE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).  
**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

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## LEGISLATIVE, RECOMMENDED & REQUIRED ACTIONS:

### 2015 School Participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)

**Audience:** Superintendents, Principals, School Test Directors, School Administrators

In the spring of 2015, schools will participate in NAEP mathematics, reading, and science assessments at grades 4 and 8, and TIMSS for grades 4, 8, and 12. Superintendents and principals will be notified before the end of June 2014 so that principals can place the assessment window on their calendars and incorporate NAEP (January 26 to March 6, 2015) and TIMSS (March 30 to May 29, 2015) into the planned school program. [NAEP](#) is the largest nationally representative measure of student achievement across the country, and [TIMSS](#) is the longest ongoing international assessment.

**Contact:** Andrew Hudacs, NAEP State Coordinator, 802-479-1366 or [andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us](mailto:andrew.hudacs@state.vt.us)

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

### Seeking Professional Learning Team Applicants

**Audience:** All

**Deadline Extended: June 6, 2014**

We are looking for qualified applicants to be members of the Science, English Language Arts, and Mathematics Professional Learning Teams. [Letters](#) and [applications](#) were sent to principals and curriculum coordinators two weeks ago. If you are interested and have not yet heard about this opportunity, please contact your administrator for the application materials and information.

**Contact:** Sabine Baldwin, ISL Team, [sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us](mailto:sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us)

### Item & Bias NECAP Science Review (August 7-8, 2014)

**Audience:** Science Educators, Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Coordinators, Curriculum Coordinators

**Deadline: June 9, 2014**

The AOE is pleased to announce two different opportunities for science teachers and other educators to participate in the on-going development of the [New England Common Assessment Program](#) (NECAP) Science Assessment on August 7 and 8 at the Stoweflake Mountain Resort in Stowe, VT. Selected participants will either be reviewing items or taking part in the bias and sensitivity review of each test item. [Click here](#) to read the memo.

**Contact:** Mary Ann Minardo, Assessment Consultant, 802-479-3079 or [maryann.minardo@state.vt.us](mailto:maryann.minardo@state.vt.us)

### Vermont Science Initiative Exemplars

**Audience:** K-8 Science Teachers

Teachers involved in the VSI Science and Engineering Academy created instructional units that include an engineering design task. The units are aligned with the NGSS standards and include: Stage 1 - Desired Results including misconception research; Stage 2 - A way for students to reflect on the design process; and Stage 3 - A clear description of the design task, the science context for the design task, and

the learning activities that scaffold the task. These units can be found in the VSI Science and Engineering Exemplars group in the Vermont Education Exchange (VE<sup>2</sup>). [Click here](#) to access VE<sup>2</sup> site.

**Contact:** Pat Fitzsimmons, Math/Science Partnership, 802- 479-1425 or [pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us](mailto:pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us)

### Common Core “Great Tasks” LNV and Case Study Learning Progressions Workshops

**Audience:** All Mathematics Educators

We have bundled our second and third PL opportunities in [VE<sup>2</sup>](#)! The LNV session now has a voice-over Power Point feature, and our Case Studies offer additional time with interpreting evidence of student learning, and acting on that evidence. You can find all you need to recreate the PL in VE<sup>2</sup>

<http://ve2.vermont.gov/>, Professional Development tab, CCSS Learning Progressions K-5 Place Value Reasoning or CCSS Learning Progressions 6-12 Proportional Reasoning.

**Contact:** Tracy Watterson, Elementary Mathematics, 802-479-1353 at [tracy.watterson@state.vt.us](mailto:tracy.watterson@state.vt.us)

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## STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:



### Sec. Holcombe on VermontPLN blog: What is the Common Core & Why Did VT Adopt It?

**Audience:** All

The Common Core is an aspirational document, one in a series of standards documents that seek to describe what all students should know and be able to do in order to thrive in college and careers in the 21st century. [Click here](#) to read the blog.

**Contacts:** Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Coordinator, [pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us](mailto:pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us); Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, [lori.dolezal@state.vt.us](mailto:lori.dolezal@state.vt.us); Kris Breen, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, [kris.breen@state.vt.us](mailto:kris.breen@state.vt.us); Tracy Watterson, Math Coordinator, [tracy.watterson@state.vt.us](mailto:tracy.watterson@state.vt.us)



### Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): FAQ

**Audience:** All

What can educators do to ensure safety in NGSS classrooms? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to access the science standards.

**Contacts:** Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or [gail.hall@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.hall@state.vt.us); Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or [kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us](mailto:kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us)



### Smarter Balanced: An Introduction to Vermont’s New Statewide Assessment Program

**Audience:** All

Want to learn more about Smarter Balanced (SBAC) in Vermont? Check out the [Resources tab](#) on our Smarter Balanced page: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

**Contacts:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us); Mary Ann Minardo, Teacher Outreach Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or [maryann.minardo@state.vt.us](mailto:maryann.minardo@state.vt.us); Frank Gerdeman, ISL -Secondary & Adult Assistant Director, 802-479-1381 or [frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us](mailto:frank.gerdeman@state.vt.us)

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## OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

### Brent Kay Named 2014 Vermont Superintendent of the Year

**Audience: All**

Superintendent Kay was recognized for his exemplary leadership at the community, state and national levels. Dr. Kay, who is one of Vermont's longer serving superintendents, was lauded for his strong emphasis on promoting individualized learning, efficient fiscal management and overall leadership within the schools and communities that he serves. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

**Contact:** Jeff Francis, VSA, [jfrancis@vtvsa.org](mailto:jfrancis@vtvsa.org)

**VCSEA Honors Two Local Educators and Riverside Middle School****Audience: All**

Beth Hemingway, Director of Student Support Services for the Grand Isle SU named the Gail Lynk Special Education Administrator of the Year. Linell Vilaseca, Special Educator at the CVU in Hinesburg, selected as the Individual Golden Apple Award recipient. Team Sojourn from Riverside Middle School in Springfield was the recipient of the Team Golden Apple Award. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

**Contact:** Jo-Anne Unruh, VCSEA, 802-595-5799 or [junruh@vcsea.net](mailto:junruh@vcsea.net)

**Interested in National Board Certification?****Audience: K-12 Educators**

Vermont-NEA will be hosting a webinar for teachers interested in pursuing National Board Certification during the 2014-2015 school year. This webinar will give you information about the new process for National Board Certification and how Vermont-NEA will support candidates in all corners of the state. Join Kate McCann (U-32), Ian Bleakney (Colchester), and Juliette Longchamp (Vermont-NEA) on June 9 from 3-4pm to learn about the process and benefits of National Board Certification. [Click here](#) to register.

**Contact:** Kate McCann, 802-229-0321 x2216 or [kmccann@u32.org](mailto:kmccann@u32.org)

**Vermont Reads *Wonder* – A Statewide, One-Book Community Reading Program****Audience: All**

Vermont communities are invited to participate in the statewide read of *Wonder*, R.J. Palacio's inspiring story about the power, and the importance, of kindness -- in everyone's life. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- Vermont Reads, 'Wonder': [Everyone Is Fighting A Battle](#)
- Vermont Reads, 'Wonder': [The Middle School Brain](#)
- Vermont Reads, 'Wonder': [Bullying](#)
- Vermont Reads, 'Wonder': [We All Overcometh The World](#)
- VPR Commentary by educator [Mike Martin: Enosburg Reads Wonder](#)

**Contact:** Vermont Humanities Council, 802-262-2626 or [splumb@vermonthumanities.org](mailto:splumb@vermonthumanities.org)

**Vermont 2-1-1****Audience: All**

Using Vermont 2-1-1 as a network communication system can support schools in getting vital information to parents and the public. 2-1-1 assists communities with any kind of incidents and should be included in every [Vermont school safety plan](#). Learn more here: <http://www.vermont211.org/>.

**Contacts:** MaryEllen Mendl at 802-861-0146 x205 or [maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org](mailto:maryellen@unitedwaysvt.org); Carmel Quinn at 802-861-0146 x207 or [carmel@unitedwaysvt.org](mailto:carmel@unitedwaysvt.org)

**UMass Survey on Emerging Education Practices****Audience: Principals**

From Common Core to personalized learning, education is in a state of flux. This May, the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute begins a longitudinal study about education reform efforts. New England high school principals can expect to see an invitation to complete a 15 minute web-based survey

in their in-box. Please participate -- there are many great incentives and a free movie rental for every principal who completes the survey.

**Contact:** Kristin Lieber, Research Manager, UMDI, [klieber@donahue.umassp.edu](mailto:klieber@donahue.umassp.edu)

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This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us).

**Sign up for the weekly field memo here:** [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html)

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